



MINUTES of the Organizational Meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation held on Monday, January 11, 2016 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, CT.

Chairman Michael Mason called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M., after which the members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Board Members in attendance:

Michael S. Mason, Chairman  
Arthur D. Norton, Vice Chairman  
William Drake, Clerk  
John Blankley  
Mary Lee A. Kiernan  
Jeffrey S. Ramer  
Leslie L. Tarkington  
Nancy Weissler

2016 BET Elected Candidates present:

Beth Krumeich  
James A. Lash  
Leslie Moriarty  
Jill Oberlander

Selectmen: Peter Tesei, First Selectman

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Lauren Elliott, Assessor; Carmela Budkins, Town Clerk; Ben Branyan, Town Administrator; J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney; Tod Laudonia, Tax Collector

Other: Laura Erickson, Chairman, Board of Education; Barbara O'Neill, Vice Chairman, Board of Education; Laurence Simon, Board Member, Nathaniel Witherell; Arline Lomazzo, RTM Member

#### **Administration of the Oath of Office by Town Clerk**

At the invitation of Mr. Mason, Mrs. Budkins administered the Oath of Office to members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation for the 2016-2018 Term.

#### **Election of Officers**

Mr. Mason opened the floor to nominations for Chairman of the BET. Mr. Drake nominated Mr. Mason to a third term as BET Chair acknowledging the leadership, standards and collegial spirit he has brought to the position. Ms. Kiernan seconded the nomination.

Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Drake, as Clerk of the BET, cast one ballot for the election of Mr. Mason as BET Chairman.

Mr. Mason nominated Mr. Norton as a candidate for the Vice Chairmanship of the Board of Estimate and Taxation acknowledging his contributions to the BET during his previous terms and leadership on the Audit Committee, as Liaison to External Entity Boards, Building Committees and Special Project assignments. Mr. Ramer seconded the nomination citing his long period of service and ability to "reach across the aisle" to build consensus.

Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Drake, as Clerk of the BET, cast one ballot for the election of Mr. Norton as BET Vice Chairman.

Mr. Norton nominated Mr. Drake as a candidate for Clerk of the Board of Estimate and Taxation acknowledging his laudable performance with processes and procedures during his previous term. Ms. Tarkington seconded the nomination.

Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Drake, as Clerk of the BET, cast one ballot for the election of Mr. Drake as BET Clerk.

**Chairman's Appointment of Members to Standing Committees and Liaison Assignments for 2016 – 2018 Term**

Mr. Mason remarked that two people from each political party would be appointed to Standing Committees; one member of each political party would be appointed as Liaisons; and, Special Project Teams may be appointed from time to time by the Chairman of the BET.

<b>Standing Committees</b> (Bold Denotes Chair)	<b>Members</b>
Audit	Blankley, <b>Norton</b> , Oberlander, Mason
Budget	<b>Lash</b> , Kiernan, Ramer, Tarkington
Human Resources	Drake, Moriarty, Oberlander, <b>Weissler</b>
Investments	Blankley, <b>Drake</b> , Moriarty, Norton
Law	Krumeich, <b>Tarkington</b>
Policy/Procedure	Norton, Ramer
<b>Liaison</b>	<b>Members</b>
Assessor	Ramer, Tarkington
CD Block Grant	Drake, Krumeich
CIP – Capital Improvement	Mason, Moriarty
Comptroller	Kiernan, Mason
DPW	Moriarty, Norton
Education	Mason
Information Technology	Blankley, Weissler
Nathaniel Witherell	Norton
Parks & Recreation	Drake, Kiernan
Public Safety	Mason, Oberlander
Retirement	Blankley, Drake
<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>Members</b>

Central Fire House  
Healthcare Working Group  
Labor Contracts  
MISA Building  
Nathaniel Witherell  
New Lebanon Building

Mason  
Krumeich, Weissler  
Krumeich, Mason  
Tarkington  
Norton  
Drake

Mr. Mason substituted himself for his original appointment of Ms. Weissler on the Audit Committee, due to calendar conflicts. Checking that all BET members had received their BET Policy & Procedure binder, TOG ID and iPads, he noted that further discussion of the binder material would be a subsequent BET meeting agenda item.

#### **Board's Biennial Appointment of Comptroller**

Ms. Kiernan offered the following Resolution, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to reappoint Mr. Mynarski as Comptroller, which the Board of Estimate and Taxation voted 12-0-0 to approve:

**Resolved** that the Board of Estimate and Taxation appoints Peter Mynarski as the Comptroller for a two year term effective January 11, 2016 and terminating on the date of the first meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation in January, 2018. The appointment shall be subject to the provisions of Article 1, Section 11 of the Town Charter.

#### **Board's Biennial Appointment of Assessor**

Ms. Tarkington offered the following Resolution, seconded by Mr. Ramer, to reappoint Ms. Elliott as Assessor, which the Board of Estimate and Taxation voted 12-0-0 to approve:

**Resolved** that the Board of Estimate and Taxation appoints Lauren Elliott as the Assessor for a two year term effective January 11, 2016 and terminating on the date of the first meeting of the Board of Estimate and Taxation in January, 2018. The appointment shall be subject to the provisions of Article 17, Section 293-(b) of the Town Charter.

#### **F.O.I. Updating Briefing – Law Department**

Ms. Ahmad distributed an F.O.I. Act handout and gave an overview of circumstances in which the Act affected BET members as a public agency with public records.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Mason asked Ms. Kiernan, as the Democratic Caucus Leader, if she wished to make some remarks. Ms. Kiernan thanked Mr. Finger for his contribution during his ten years as Caucus Leader and noted that it was a privilege to serve with such talented professionals in a new BET of six men and six women members.

Mr. Mason reminded BET Members that BET stood for Better Educated Taxpayers and suggested he looked forward to laying out the work of the new Term.


## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Oberlander, the Board voted 12-0-0 to adjourn at 5:48 P.M.

The next Regular Meeting of the BET is scheduled on Monday, January 25, 2016 in the Cone Meeting Room at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

  
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William Drake, Clerk of the Board

  
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Michael S. Mason, Chairman